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Supplement to the Trinity Tablet, May 11, 1889

Trinity College

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Supplement to the Tablet.

VOL. XXII.

HARTFORD, CONN., SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1889.

No. VI.

MR. COLEMAN'S INVITATION.

The college has never had among its alumni a more enthusiastic and liberal supporter than Mr. Robert H. Coleman, of Cornwall, Penn., who was graduated in the class of '77. His interest and love for the college has been demonstrated by several large gifts made in support of new enterprises for the better equipment of the college. The most recent of his gifts was \$10,000 towards the endowment of the new gymnasium. Mr. Coleman is a thorough athlete himself, and he takes a very lively interest in all branches of colleges' athletic sports. His support of the college foot ball and base ball teams have been uniformly ready and liberal, and he has come to be looked upon by the undergraduates as an unfailing source of aid, whenever financial difficulties threaten any of the athletic organizations.

In response to a circular letter sent out recently to the alumni by the manager of the base ball nine, asking for financial support, Mr. Coleman promptly duplicated his handsome subscription of last year, and supplemented it with the following generous and characteristic offer.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA,
April 12th, 1889.

MR. F. F. KRAMER,

Manager Trinity College Base Ball Club.

DEAR SIR: I have been considering for a year or two the possibility of asking the Trinity College Base Ball Club to pay me a visit at Cornwall. There is a great deal of interest to see there, in the shape of an extraordinary deposit of ore, which is not equalled in this country; large blast furnaces, Pennsylvania Steel Works, which is one of the largest in this country, and other points of interest in our immediate neighborhood. My idea would be to pay the entire expense of the party from New York to Cornwall and return, the party to be my guests while at Cornwall. A visit to Cornwall will give you all an opportunity of seeing a good many things that you

could not see elsewhere and would prove of great interest and of course would be very instructive. You could arrange, either on the way to Cornwall or on the way home, to play some of the colleges in our neighborhood, which would serve to extend the reputation of Trinity and would give the college plenty of free advertising.

In addition to this, we have a lot of players at Cornwall called the Cornwall Base Ball Club, and we would be glad to play the Trinity College nine every afternoon during your stay with us. The players of the Cornwall Base Ball Club are all in my employ in various capacities, such as managers, telegraph operators, book-keepers, etc. We play regularly once a week on my grounds and have two regular nines. We keep a scientific record of our games and work out the players' averages at the end of each year. While we are not proficient enough to ever think of "laying out" the Trinity College Base Ball Club, we all nevertheless think we could give you a fairly good game and at least offer you a good opportunity for exercise and recreation. I play myself regularly, and it will afford me a great deal of pleasure to welcome the Trinity College base ball nine, of which I had the honor to be the first Manager.

Now if this proposition meets with the approval of the Trinity boys, just let me know and I will write to President Smith if necessary, and endeavor to get his permission for you to make the trip. I expected to have you all stay with me in my house during your stay, but I concluded to rebuild this summer and expect to live in a small house near by, not large enough to hold more than my family. I propose therefore to send my car to New York for the entire party, and propose that you all live aboard the car, both sleeping there and taking your meals there until you return to New York on the way home. Or if you all prefer, you could camp out at Mt. Gretna, a beautiful summer resort on the mountains a few minutes ride from Cornwall, and where we have a lake and any number

of boats, a ball ground and other ways of obtaining exercise and recreation. I am pretty sure you will find it a very comfortable and jolly way of living. You can make your trip any time after the fifteenth of June; you can make it either in the summer time or the fall, and can select your own time. It is necessary, however, that the date be fixed at once and adhered to, because my engagements and movements are such that I have to arrange for them some time in advance.

Base ball being our national game, and being a clean, honest and manly amusement, I feel that it ought to be encouraged. I therefore make this proposition to the Trinity College club, not only on account of my old associations with the ball club and the fact that I am a graduate of the college, but because it will serve to raise the enthusiasm of our undergraduates on the subject and will perhaps stimulate the applicants for positions on the Trinity ball nine to greater work for the honor of the college and the team.

Hoping that you will accept my invitation to spend three or four days at Cornwall, and wishing you every success for the coming season, believe me

Yours truly,

[Signed] ROBT. H. COLEMAN.

Nothing like this had ever before been held out to men working for the nine as a reward of faithful training, and regular, conscientious and spirited work. And its effect upon the men was immediate and striking. Those already sure of getting on the team were anxious to make a record worthy of the reward, while the uncertain ones were desirous of having a share in the promised sport. Mr. Kramer promptly accepted on behalf of the ball nine Mr. Coleman's generous invitation, at the same time conveying to him the hearty thanks of the men. The style and spirit of the team work has been steadily improving since, and the showing made on the recent trip is largely to be attributed no doubt to the incentive of this invitation.

Shortly afterwards the receipt of the following letter from Mr. Coleman gladdened the hearts of all the undergraduates:

To the Undergraduates of Trinity College:

Gentlemen: As you are probably already aware, I have invited the President and Faculty of Trinity College and the Trinity College

base ball nine to be my guests for one week at Cornwall. My plans, however, extend a great deal farther than this, and I want all the undergraduates of Trinity to be present; and if possible, come with the Trinity College nine on the day appointed. I also want to secure a large attendance of alumni. YH 3JUN 88

In inviting the undergraduates to join the party for a week's visit to Mt. Gretna and Cornwall, I will make the following statement for the present, leaving further details to a circular letter which I intend to send each one of you in a few days. For the accommodation of the Faculty, the Trinity base ball nine, the undergraduates and also all alumni that can come from New York City and New England, a special train will leave New York City, foot of Debosses street, Friday, June 28, via Pennsylvania Railroad, at 9 o'clock in the morning. This train will reach its destination about 3:30 in the afternoon, and will take on all alumni residing in Philadelphia, and other places en route.

I have arranged for special excursion tickets at reduced rates, good for ten days, for all Trinity undergraduates and alumni making this trip. It is of course understood from my previous letters to Mr. Kramer, that the entire party will camp out on the bank of a small lake at Mt. Gretna, a summer park three miles from Cornwall. During your stay at Mt. Gretna, your tents, blankets and bedding will be furnished free of charge, and your only expense will be for meals. I will secure good cooks especially for this purpose and meals will be furnished at a restaurant near camp, at fifty cents each.

I hope, therefore, that all the undergraduates of Trinity College will accept my invitation to join the reunion, and that they will be able to meet in New York on Friday morning, June 28, and take the 9 o'clock special Trinity College train via Pennsylvania railroad. I want you all to stay, if possible, for the entire week or until July 6, when a special train will be made up to return the party to New York. I intend to send each undergraduate a circular letter giving further details, and in the meantime trusting you will all accept my proposition, believe me

Yours truly,

ROBERT H. COLEMAN.

A committee consisting of Edward T. Sullivan, T. A. Conover, and W. E. A.

Bulkeley, was appointed to convey the thanks of the students to Mr. Coleman, and to co-operate with him in completing the arrangements. The following letter was forwarded :

TRINITY COLLEGE,
HARTFORD, May 1, 1889.

Dear Sir : Your very kind letter of April 15th, inviting the undergraduates of Trinity to spend a week early in July with you at your home in Cornwall, was read at a college meeting a day or two after its arrival. Your invitation was received with hearty approbation, and the motion to accept it was enthusiastically carried.

The undersigned were chosen to convey to you the warm thanks of the students, and their acceptance of your very generous invitation.

As many as can possibly do so will be glad to avail themselves of your hospitality, but we are unable to give you any idea of the number at this writing. The replies to the circular letter which you are to address to the students individually will very likely help you to the information you desire.

We are authorized to cooperate with you in making the arrangements. If we can be of any assistance to you, therefore, please make use of us.

Again thanking you for your courtesy and generosity we have the honor to be

Yours very sincerely,

EDWARD T. SULLIVAN, *Chairman.*

(Signed) T. A. CONOVER,

W. E. A. BULKELEY.

To Robert H. Coleman, Esq., Cornwall, Penn.

But Mr. Coleman's plans continued to grow. Instead of having simply the baseball nine as his guests he now determined to extend the invitation to the President, the Faculty and all the Alumni, and have a grand Trinity reunion at his home. Accordingly he invited the President, the Faculty, and Bishop Williams to be his guests from June 28th to July 6th.

The Faculty readily accepted Mr. Coleman's invitation and are now co-operating with him, furnishing him with the addresses of the alumni, and aiding him in whatever way they can to bring the plan to a successful issue.

The programme to be carried out during the week of the reunion will be as follows :

Friday, June 28th. Arrival at Mt. Gretna. Band in camp all the evening.

Saturday, June 29th. Visit Cornwall in the morning. In the afternoon a match game of base ball between Trinity College nine and the Cornwall base ball club. Music in camp by the band, and also by the Trinity College Glee Club.

Sunday, June 30th. Special train will be furnished Sunday morning at nine o'clock to take any parties to Lebanon who desire either to visit the town, or attend services in various churches. Train will return to Mt. Gretna about one o'clock. In the evening at seven o'clock a special train will leave Mt. Gretna for Lebanon, taking any of the party to Cornwall and Lebanon who desire to visit friends or attend services. Returning will leave Lebanon at nine o'clock for Cornwall and Mt. Gretna.

Monday, July 1st. Special train will be furnished to visit the Cornwall Ore Banks, at Cornwall, and other points of interest in that neighborhood, returning to camp at twelve o'clock. In the afternoon a match game of ball will be played between the Trinity College nine and a team from the University of Pennsylvania. A special train will bring the ball players and their friends and all parties from Philadelphia who desire to see the game, returning with them in the evening. There will be music by the band in the evening in camp, and also by the Trinity College Glee Club.

Tuesday, July 2nd. Special train will be furnished to take the party to visit the Pennsylvania Steel Works, and return about twelve o'clock. In the afternoon the party will go to Cornwall, where the second game will be played with the Cornwall nine. A band will play in camp during the evening.

Wednesday, July 3rd. A special train will be furnished at nine o'clock in the morning to visit Colebrook Furnaces and other points of interest in the city of Lebanon, returning about twelve o'clock. In the afternoon the base ball nine of Princeton College with undergraduates and their friends will arrive at Mt. Gretna, and later on a match game will be played between the Princeton College nine and the Trinity College team on grounds at Mt. Gretna. After the game a special train will return to Philadelphia and Princeton College with the Princeton team

and their friends. In the evening the party will go to Cornwall to see a large display of fireworks and will return to Mt. Gretna about ten o'clock.

Thursday, July 4th. There will be a crowd from Lebanon at Mt. Gretna on this day, probably eight or nine thousand people. In the afternoon there will be a match game of ball between Trinity College and the Lafayette College nine from Easton. A special train will bring the Lafayette College boys and their friends and will take them back after the game is over. In the morning it will probably be more agreeable to those in camp to remain there and see the crowd, etc. There will be music by the band in camp in evening.

Friday, July 5th. A special train will take the party to Harrisburg, where they can see the Capitol buildings, the Harrisburg Nail Works, and other points of interest and will return to Mt. Gretna at one o'clock. In the afternoon, the party will visit Cornwall where the Trinity College ball nine will have the third game with the Cornwall team. In the evening there will be receptions and the usual singing by the Trinity College Glee Club, chorus singing by the alumni and students, and music by the band. The lake and camp will be illuminated.

Saturday, July 6th. Parties will leave in special trains for destinations.

There will be two or three ball grounds laid out near the camp, and several tennis courts. There are also about twenty boats on the lake, and two or three bowling alleys in the park which will supply a variety of exercise and amusement for the party. Mr. Allen D. Hoffer will be in charge of the camp, and will have his headquarters there day and night. The Union News Company will have a large establishment on hand, including newspapers and periodicals from all over the country and all things necessary for camp life.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT H. COLEMAN.

Such is the magnificent plan devised by Mr. Coleman. It has no parallel in the history of Trinity, if indeed it has in the history of any American college. It is unique in its conception, and Mr. Coleman's careful and elaborate arrangements and his business skill guarantee that it will be successfully carried out in every detail. So far

as Mr. Coleman is concerned the reunion of the Trinity Alumni, Faculty and Undergraduates at Mt. Gretna will be one of the most memorable events in our college history.

The scheme and the arrangements, however, assume that a large body of the undergraduates will take part in the reunion. Mr. Coleman is providing for 250 guests, and he expresses the hope that the full extent of his accommodations will be taxed.

It would seem superfluous to urge upon the students the desirability and necessity of a large number accepting this very generous invitation. A large number of the alumni have already notified Mr. Coleman of their intention to attend. Visitors from the neighboring towns will be in camp in considerable numbers, and the representatives of the press will transmit the doings far and wide. A better opportunity for gaining for the college widespread and most valuable advertising could scarcely be conceived, has never before been offered, and perhaps never will again.

Every undergraduate, therefore, owes it to the college at large, and to himself as an integral part of the institution to contribute to this end by his presence and his enthusiasm. We must make the mountains of Pennsylvania re-echo with our "Rah! Rah! Rah's!"—we must give the crowds of visitors and strangers a proper impression of our size and importance, and we must so charge the atmosphere with our enthusiasm for Trinity that the people of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania will inhale it with every breath, become thoroughly permeated with it, and bequeath it as a rich legacy unto their issue.

To bring about this result we must go down to Mt. Gretna at least one hundred strong. Special trains will take to the camp the ball teams and undergraduates of Princeton, University of Pennsylvania and Lafayette, and it would be anomalous and somewhat humiliating if the students of either of these institutions should outnumber in Trinity's own camp the Trinity men.

Since Mr. Coleman has made arrangement for the accommodation of the entire body of undergraduates we must respond by a very hearty and general acceptance of his invitation. Proper appreciation of the kindness shown us, and ordinary courtesy alike demand that every student who can possibly do so should enroll himself for the encampment.